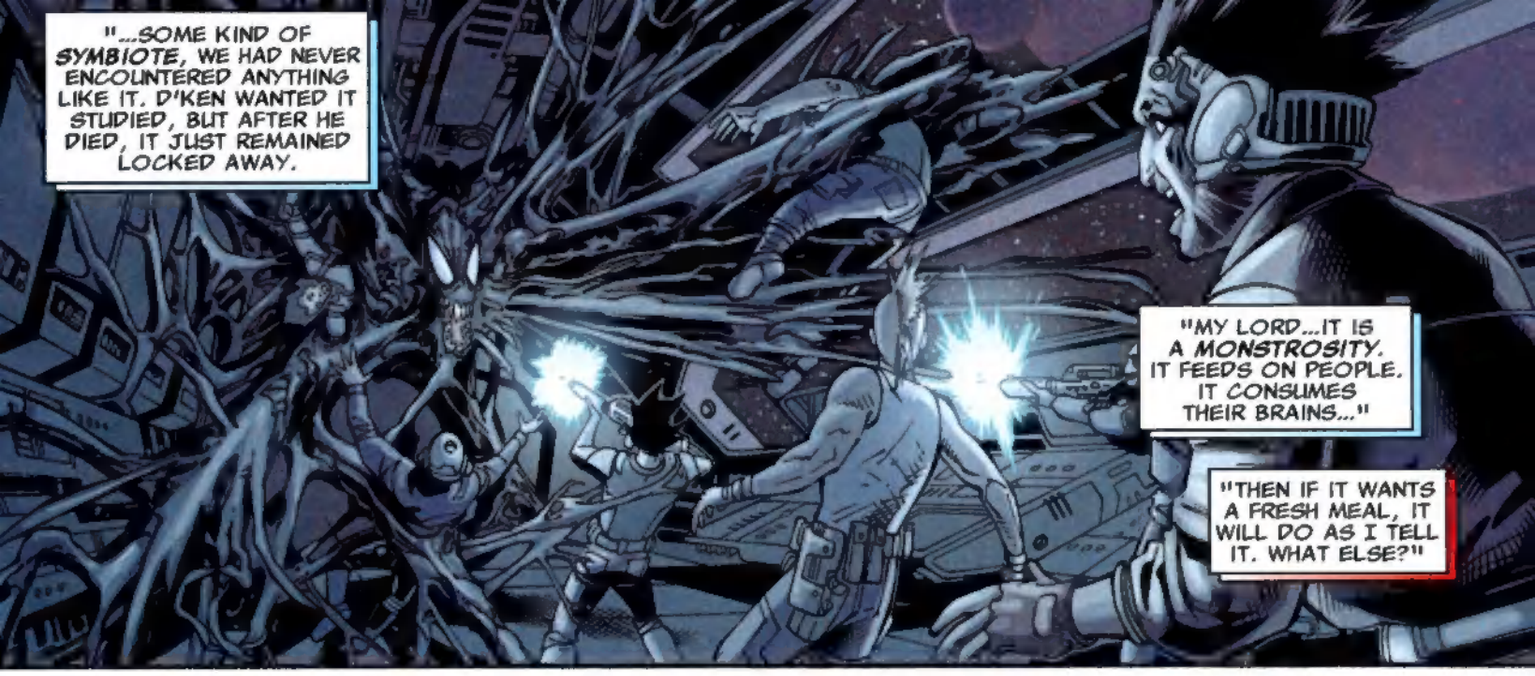
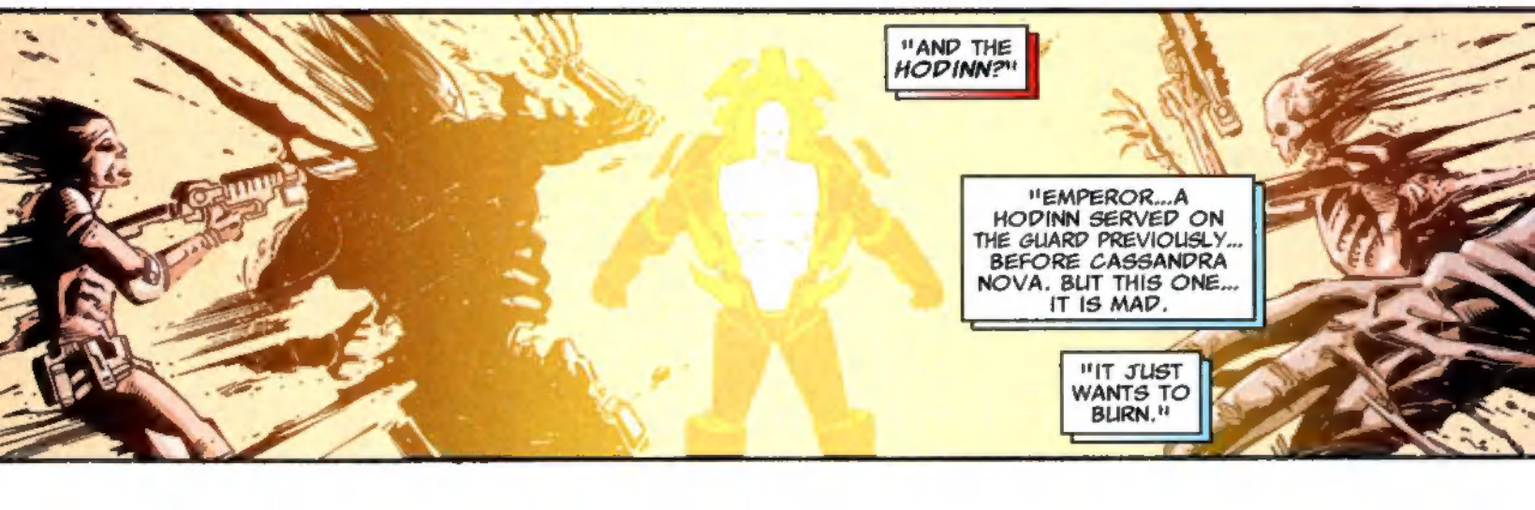

"...SOME KIND OF SYMBIOTE, WE HAD NEVER ENCOUNTERED ANYTHING LIKE IT. D'KEN WANTED IT STUDIED, BUT AFTER HE DIED, IT JUST REMAINED LOCKED AWAY.
"MY LORD...IT IS A MONSTROSITY. IT FEEDS ON PEOPLE. IT CONSUMES THEIR BRAINS..."
"THEN IF IT WANTS A FRESH MEAL, IT WILL DO AS I TELL IT. WHAT ELSE?"

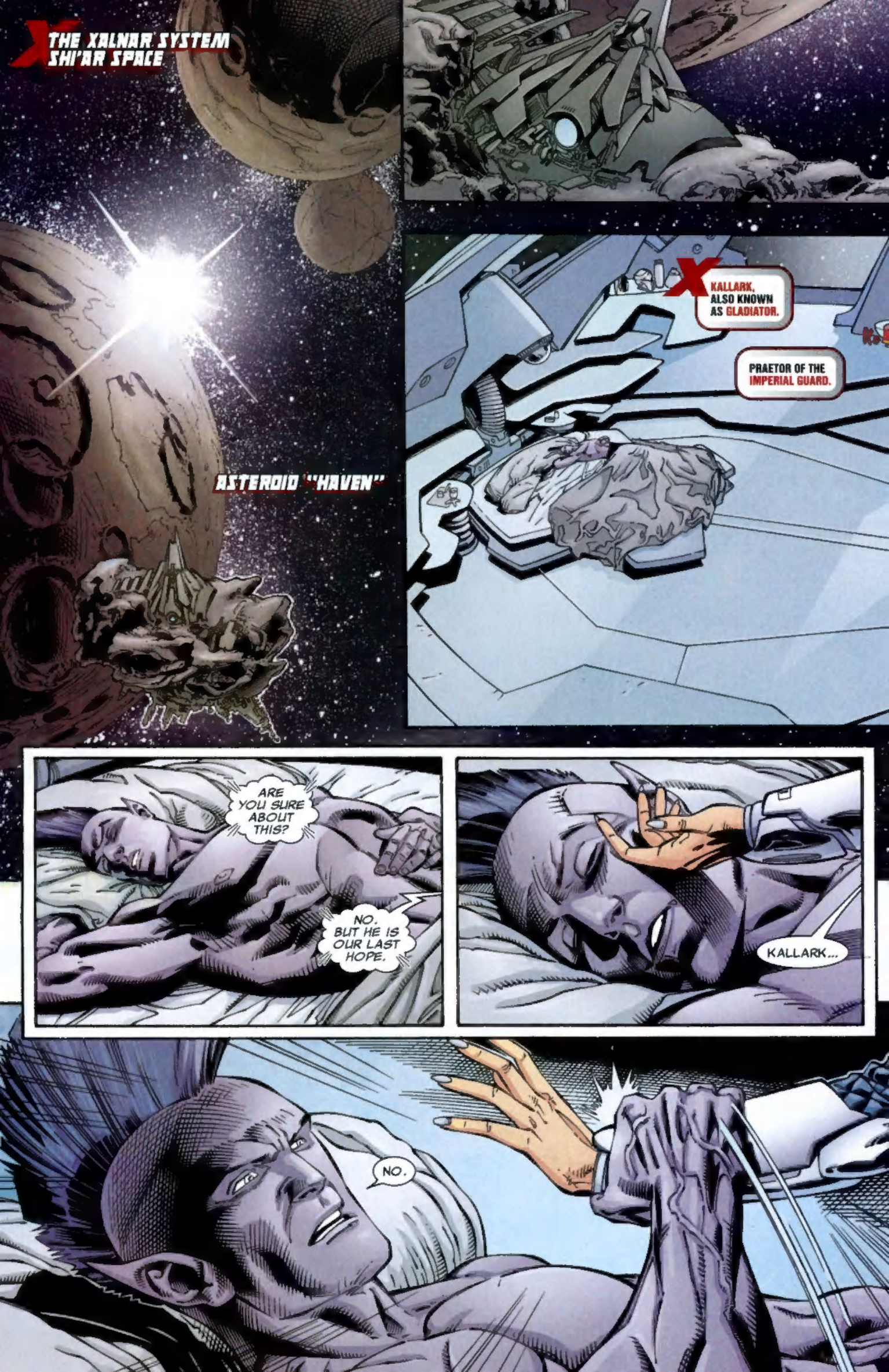
"A SURVIVOR FROM THE RECENT UNCREATED INVASION. IT SOMEHOW SURVIVED THE MASS SUICIDE, AND WAS CAPTURED.
"WHEN IT AWOKE, THE CREATURE WENT MAD, KILLING EVERYONE IT SAW, WANTING TO KNOW IF THEY WORSHIPPED A GOD...SO THE UNCREATED COULD FIND IT AND KILL IT."
"I THINK I CAN FIND A GOD FOR IT TO KILL."

"THE PN'ZO...WE DO NOT KNOW IF THAT IS ITS RACE OR NAME. ITS ABILITIES... WE SIMPLY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THEM."
"WHAT DID IT WANT?"
"IT...IT... SIRE, IT WAS ROBBING A BANK."


"AND THE HODINN?"
"EMPEROR...A HODINN SERVED ON THE GUARD PREVIOUSLY... BEFORE CASSANDRA NOVA. BUT THIS ONE... IT IS MAD.
"IT JUST WANTS TO BURN."

"YOU SAY THAT LIKE IT'S A BAD THING, ORACLE."
KR'KN
PLEASE, MY EMPEROR... DO NOT DO THIS.
THESE ANIMALS ARE IMPRISONED FOR A REASON. THEY ARE THE MOST DANGEROUS CREATURES THE SHI'AR HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED...AND KEPT ALIVE.
ARE YOU SCARED OF THEM?
...YES.
THEN THEY'LL DO.
OPEN THEM.

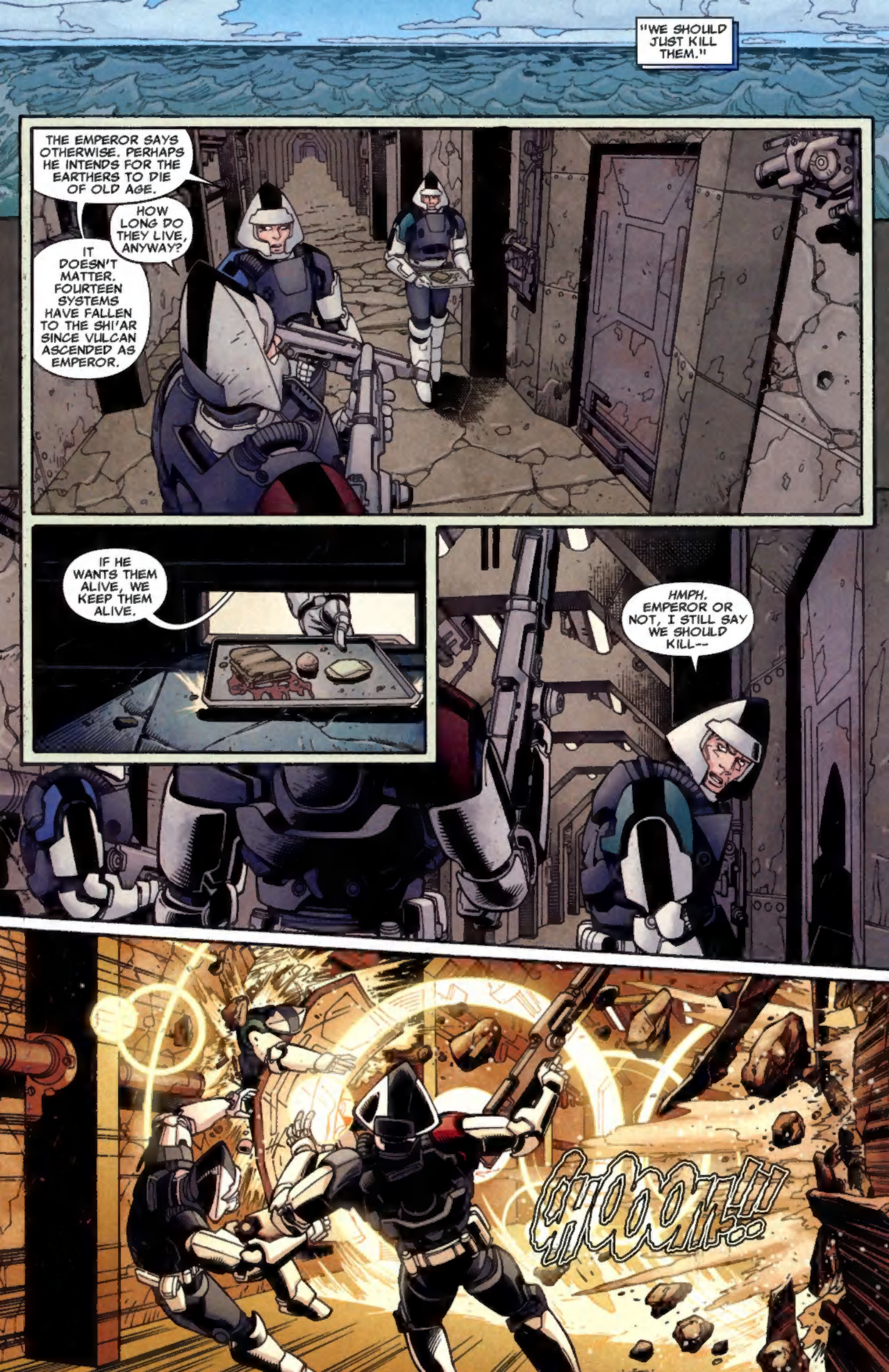
"THAT WASN'T SO BAD, NOW, WAS IT?"
THE UNCREATED KILLED FOUR OF YOUR SOLDIERS.
I DIDN'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY. EVERYONE WANTS SOMETHING, ORACLE. EVEN THIS ONE.
LET ME WORRY ABOUT GLADIATOR.
EMPEROR... YOU CANNOT GIVE KALLARK TO HER.
HAIL, STRONTIAN. MY NAME IS VULCAN.
I AM YOUR EMPEROR.
LEAVE BEFORE I KILL YOU.
CUTE. LISTEN TO ME...I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT. AND IF YOU DO AS I SAY...
...I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.

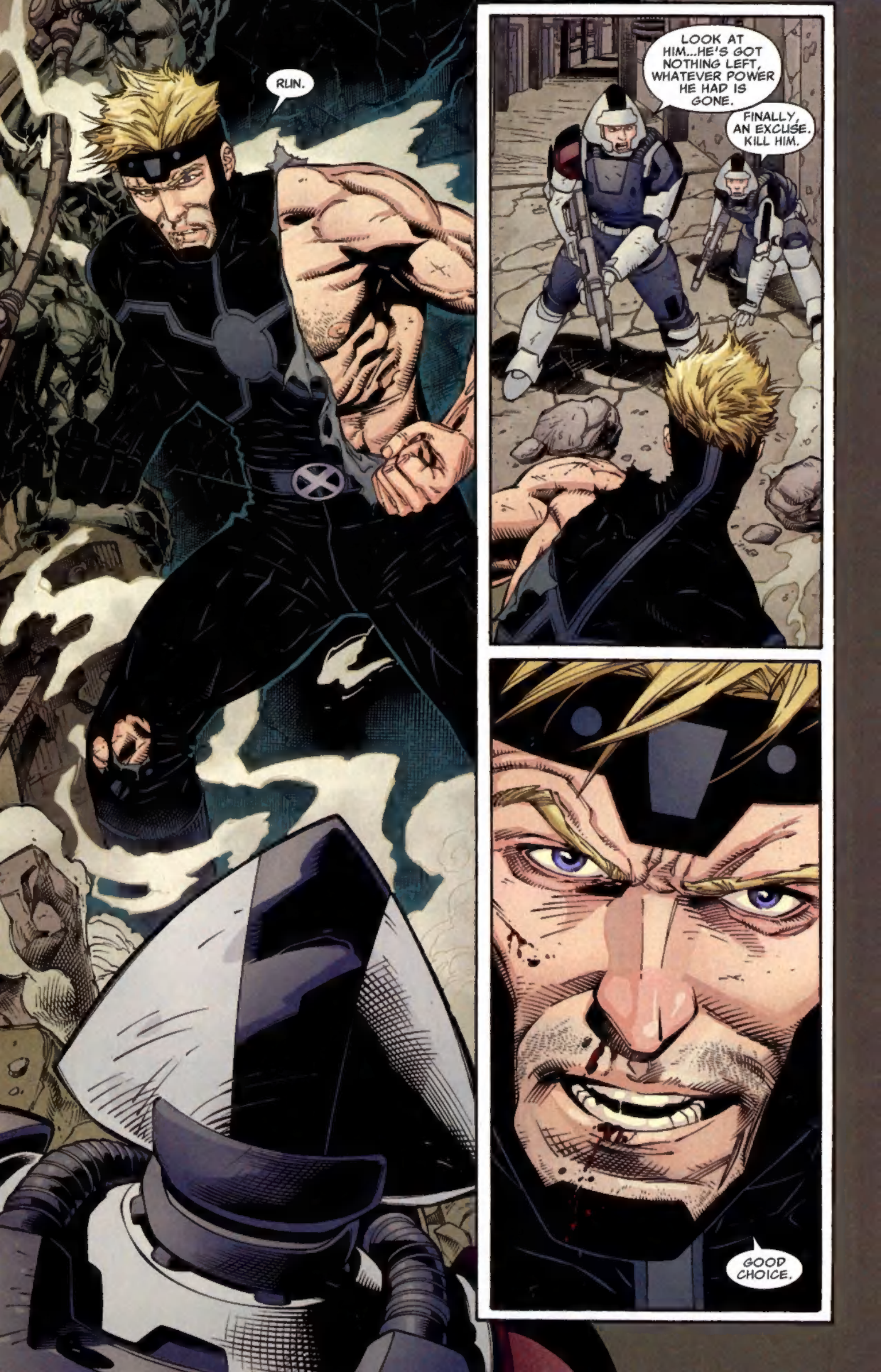

THE XALNAR SYSTEM
SHI'AR SPACE
ASTEROID "HAVEN"
KALLARK, ALSO KNOWN AS GLADIATOR.
PRAETOR OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
NO. BUT HE IS OUR LAST HOPE.
KALLARK...
NO.

LILANDRA...
KALLARK... I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU.
WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE? YOU CANNOT SURRENDER...HE WILL KILL YOU!
I AM NOT HERE TO SURRENDER.
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE COME HERE, EMPRESS! YOU KNOW WHAT I MUST NOW DO!
I KNOW IT IS NOT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.
I KNOW YOU ARE LOYAL TO THE THRONE, AND I KNOW WHY. BUT I BEG YOU...VULCAN IS NOT THE THRONE. HIS IS NOT SHI'AR, AND HE WILL LEAD THE EMPIRE TO DISASTER.
IF YOU TRULY CARE ABOUT THE EMPIRE...
I CANNOT THINK...
IF YOU EVER CARED ABOUT ME...
EMPRESS...

...THEN HELP ME. HELP ME FIND HAVOK AND DEFEAT VULCAN.
IF YOU KNOW WHY I SERVE THE EMPIRE, THEN YOU KNOW WHY I CANNOT HELP YOU.
...DO YOU HAVE IT?
WHAT? EMPRESS?
I AM TRULY SORRY, KALLARK. BUT LIKE YOU, I DO WHAT I MUST FOR THE EMPIRE'S SURVIVAL.
GOT IT.
THEY'RE ON KR'KN.
NOW.

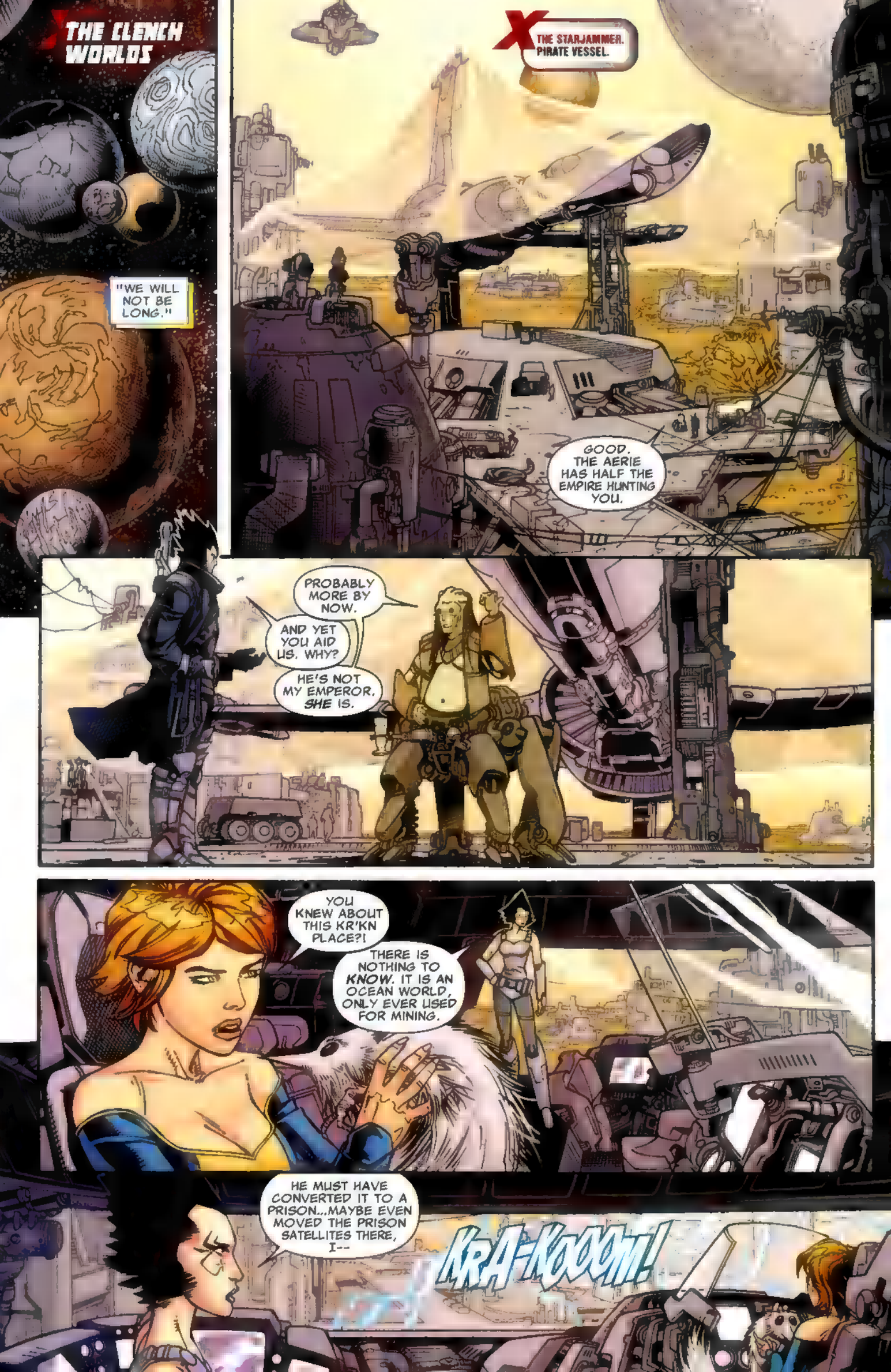
HANG ON!!
SHOOOM!
HNNN!!
LILANDRA!!
VMMM!!
EMPRESS...
AERAAAA!!!


"WE SHOULD JUST KILL THEM."
THE EMPEROR SAYS OTHERWISE. PERHAPS HE INTENDS FOR THE EARTHERS TO DIE OF OLD AGE.
HOW LONG DO THEY LIVE, ANYWAY?
IT DOESN'T MATTER. FOURTEEN SYSTEMS HAVE FALLEN TO THE SHI'AR SINCE VULCAN ASCENDED AS EMPEROR.
IF HE WANTS THEM ALIVE, WE KEEP THEM ALIVE.
HMPH. EMPEROR OR NOT, I STILL SAY WE SHOULD KILL--
BOOM!!


RUN.
LOOK AT HIM...HE'S GOT NOTHING LEFT, WHATEVER POWER HE HAD IS GONE.
FINALLY, AN EXCUSE. KILL HIM.
GOOD CHOICE.

ZARK!! ZARK!!
THUNK!
WATCH OUT! WATCH-- HURKK!!
HT--!
HUHH... HUHH... HU...
...

WELCOME BACK.
XCHANDILAR
TELL ME AGAIN WHY I'M HERE? I HAVE KINGDOMS TO CRUSH.
ENVOYS FROM THE REMNANTS OF THE GALACTIC COUNCIL HAVE COME TO SEE YOU.
YOU NEED TO SEE THEM, HUSBAND. THIS IS IMPORTANT.
IF IT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU, MY WIFE, THEN I'LL MEET WITH THEM.


THE CLENCH WORLDS
"WE WILL NOT BE LONG."
THE STARJAMMER. PIRATE VESSEL.
GOOD. THE AERIE HAS HALF THE EMPIRE HUNTING YOU.
PROBABLY MORE BY NOW.
AND YET YOU AID US. WHY?
HE'S NOT MY EMPEROR. SHE IS.
YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS KR'KN PLACE?!
THERE IS NOTHING TO KNOW. IT IS AN OCEAN WORLD, ONLY EVER USED FOR MINING.
HE MUST HAVE CONVERTED IT TO A PRISON...MAYBE EVEN MOVED THE PRISON SATELLITES THERE, I--
KRA-KOOOM!

WHAT IN SHARRA'S--
SPREAD OUT. FIND THE WOMEN.
KILL THEM ALL.
OH, GODS.
I AM SORRY FOR WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN, DOCKMASTER. YOU SHOULD RUN.
VMMMM!

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!
I...I DON'T KNOW! RACHEL, WAIT! THINK! WE HAVE TO HAVE A--
FWOOSH!!
--PLAN, WONDERFUL.
KSSSSS!!!
KYTHRI PRESERVE.
SHRACK!!
YOU... YOU'RE LIKE HIM...LIKE--
SAY IT! SAY HIS NAME!
GET AWAY FROM HIM!!

AAAAAHHHH!!
WE TASTE YOU...SO LONG, WE HAVE HUNGERED...
...KILL...ME. PLEASE...
SQUEEE!!
1
SPECIES: UNKNOWN. BIOSCAN SUGGESTS SENSITIVITY TO ELECTRICITY.
...DO NOT FIGHT... WE CAN BE TOGETHER...
NO...NO! THIS CANNOT...I WILL NOT LET THIS HAPPEN!!
VZZZZ!!
AAARGHH!!

...BIG METAL SWORD, GOOD CONDUCTOR...
...GONNA SELL AFTER YOU DIE, BIRDIE. PHOENIX SWORD, PRETTY PRICE...
YOU'LL... HAVE TO... KILL ME...
...FIRST!!
LIRK!!
RECANT! RECANT NOW! [redacted] IS YOUR GOD? WHERE IS YOUR PHOENIX?
HURRR... GET OUT... GET OUT OF MY HEAD!!
LIHHN!!
KORVUS...
YOU ARE STRONG, GIRL. BUT PHOENIX OR NOT, I AM GOING TO TEAR OUT YOUR HEART.
NO.
BURN IT OUT.
BURN IT ALL.

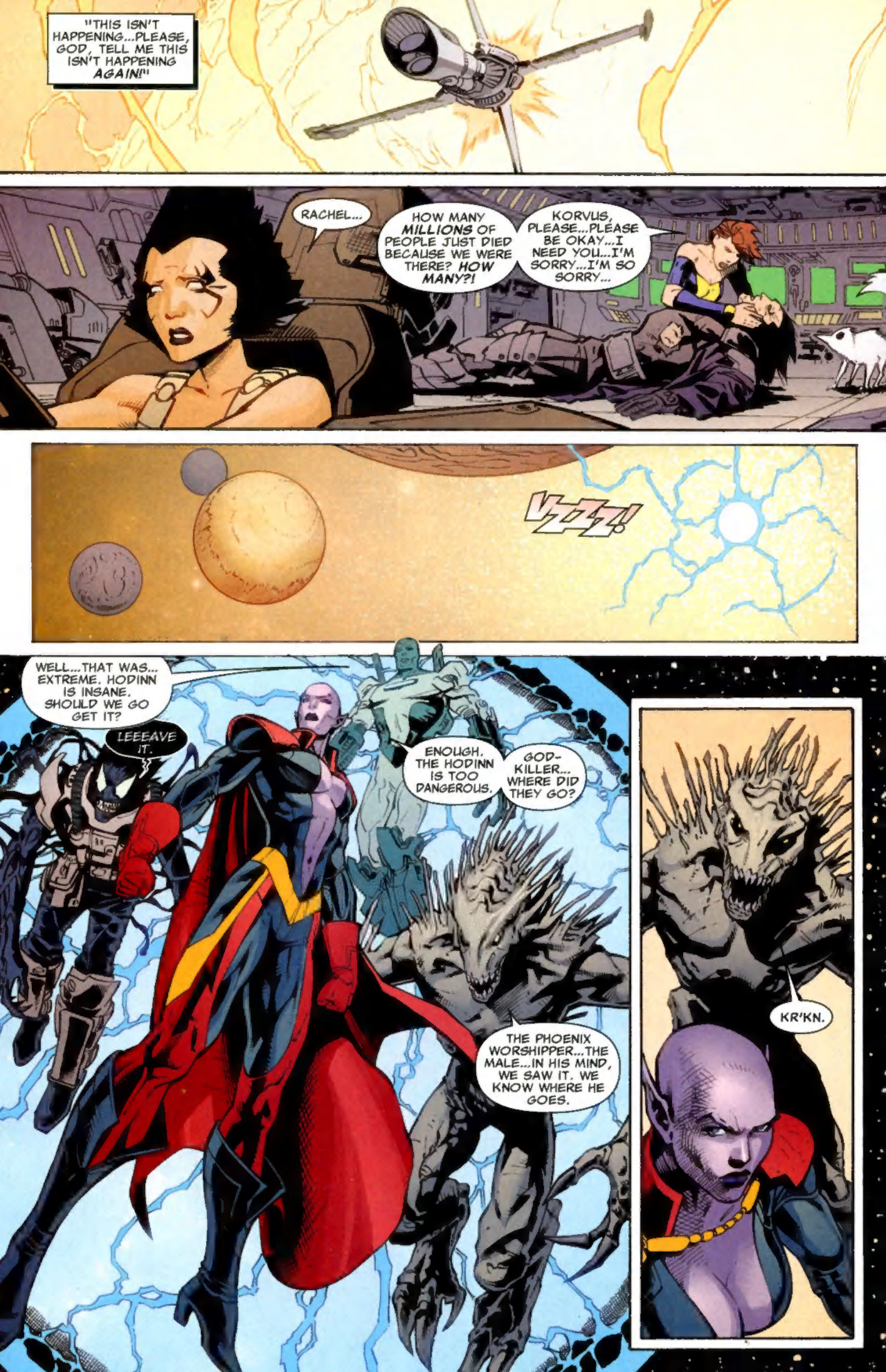
THE REMNANTS OF THE COUNCIL RESPECT YOUR POSITION AND ACKNOWLEDGE YOU AS EMPEROR OF THE SHI'AR.
UH-HUH. NOW WHAT DO YOU WANT?
AS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW, THE KNOWN GALAXIES HAVE SUFFERED SEVERAL CRISES OF LATE, FROM THE ANNIHILATION WAVE TO THE CONQUEST OF THE KREE...
THE SHI'AR'S LACK OF SUPPORT DURING THESE EVENTS HAS THE COUNCIL CONCERNED.
THE SHI'AR EMPIRE'S RECENT... EXPANSION...GOES AGAINST LILANDRA NERAMANI'S AGREEMENTS WITH THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL.
WE HAVE COME TO GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF.
AND YOU FEEL I NEED TO EXPLAIN MYSELF TO YOU?
YOU HAVE OVERSTEPPED YOUR PLACE, "EMPEROR."
YOU CONQUERED A WORLD LONG KNOWN TO BE A KREE ALLY.

WHAT'S WITH THE ROBOT?
IT'S A RECORDER UNIT. GABRIEL...
PERFECT.

PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE MADE MY INTENTIONS CLEAR TO THE GALACTIC COUNCIL FROM THE START.
THIS IS HOW I VIEW THE SHI'AR ROLE IN UNIVERSAL AFFAIRS...

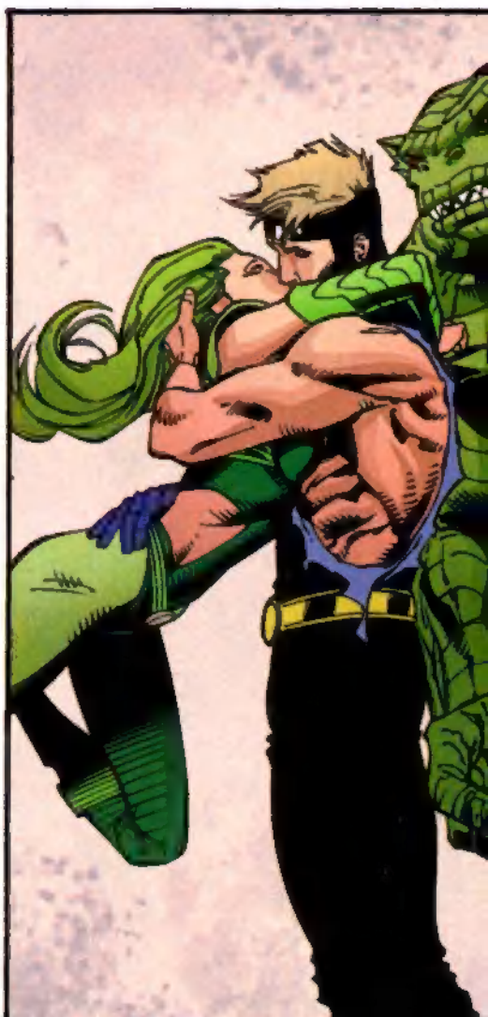
SHIAR

GABRIEL...
YOU. RECORDER.
OBSERVATION: THIS UNIT IS IN JEOPARDY.
OH, I'M NOT GOING TO DESTROY YOU...I NEED YOU TO DELIVER A MESSAGE.
GO BACK AND TELL THE COUNCIL THAT IT IS OFFICIALLY DISSOLVED.
ANY INTERFERENCE OR RESISTANCE TO SHI'AR ACTION WILL BE MET WITH SIMILAR...


"THIS ISN'T HAPPENING...PLEASE, GOD, TELL ME THIS ISN'T HAPPENING AGAIN!"
RACHEL...
HOW MANY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE JUST DIED BECAUSE WE WERE THERE? HOW MANY?!
KORVUS, PLEASE...PLEASE BE OKAY...I NEED YOU...I'M SORRY...I'M SO SORRY...
VZZZ!
WELL...THAT WAS... EXTREME. HODINN IS INSANE. SHOULD WE GO GET IT?
LEEEAVE IT.
ENOUGH. THE HODINN IS TOO DANGEROUS.
GOD-KILLER... WHERE DID THEY GO?
THE PHOENIX WORSHIPPER...THE MALE...IN HIS MIND, WE SAW IT. WE KNOW WHERE HE GOES.
KR'KN.

LORNA...
LORNA!
VULCAN!!
...WHAT? WHO--?

HI, BEAUTIFUL.
ALEX...OH, GOD, ALEX... I THOUGHT... I THOUGHT...



HRM.
WHILE I ASSUME CH'OD IS NEXT FOR PASSIONATE THANK YOU'S, I SUGGEST WE GET THE %*#@ OUT OF HERE.

OH, NO. NO, WE'RE NOT LEAVING.
COME AGAIN?
NO, GABRIEL IS GOING TO COME TO US NOW.
AND THIS IS WHERE WE'RE GOING TO KILL HIM.
TO BE CONTINUED...